

# Keystone Parent Advisory Committee (KPAC)



MINUTES

MARCH 30, 2010

7:00 P.M.

OSKALOOSA SCHOOL LIBRARY

<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	Initial Meeting
<b>FACILITATOR</b>	Linda Aldridge, Executive Director, Keystone Learning Services
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Denise Spainhower

## Agenda Topics

- Introductions
- Purpose
- Operational Guidelines
  - Meeting Times
  - Meeting Location
  - Daycare
  - Minutes
- Establish Priorities
- Fiscal Information
- Next Steps

### Introductions

- Linda Aldridge, Executive Director Keystone Learning Services, [laldridge@keystonelearning.org](mailto:laldridge@keystonelearning.org)
- Rhonda Denning, Assistant Director of Special Education, Keystone Learning Services, [rdenning@keystonelearning.org](mailto:rdenning@keystonelearning.org)
- Jeanette Souther, Assistant Director of Special Education, Keystone Learning Services, [jsouther@keystonelearning.org](mailto:jsouther@keystonelearning.org)
- Karen Edmonds, Keystone Board Member (Represents JCN)
- Denise Spainhower, Administrative Assistant, Keystone Learning Services and parent, [dspainhower@keystonelearning.org](mailto:dspainhower@keystonelearning.org)
- Parent Attendees: James and Stephanie Filbert, Kristin Fox, Melinda Harvey, Margi Higgins, Gayle Hunter, Mike and Dixie Jones, Tracy Lee, Janis Miskimins, Teri Peres, Jerome Ratzlaff, Brook Reed, James Shade, Steve and Amy Smith, Corey and Misty Van Nostrand, Lynn Ward, and Tina Wright.
- No Valley Falls Parents

Keystone Learning Services is governed by a seven member board of directors. Each school district in the Special Education cooperative sends one member to make up this board.

Interesting fact: Special Education was founded by parents (not educators).

### KPAC Purpose

- Advise the Keystone Board of Directors regarding ways to improve student services.
- Serve as a coordination tool for influencing legislation pertaining to special education students and special education funding.
- Advocate for students with disabilities

Note: This committee is not a forum for discussion of specific student issues or personnel related to specific students.

### Operational Guidelines

- **Meeting Date and Time:** Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
  - Next meeting – **Tuesday, April 13, 2010, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
- **Meeting Location:** Oskaloosa Public Schools Library
- **Daycare:** Three parents volunteered their older children to watch others during the next meeting(s).
- **Minutes:** Denise Spainhower will prepare minutes and they will be e-mailed to those with an e-mail address and mailed to those who do not have an address. We also plan to post the minutes on the Keystone Learning Serves website on the parent page.  
<http://www.keystonelearning.org/Parents.html>

### Establish Priorities (with meaningful purpose)

- Legislative Matters
  - Contact Legislators!
  - “My child benefits …” Tell Legislators
  - “Stop the cuts—it is hurting the capacity to help children.”
  - Special Education *is* cost effective
- Special Education Funding
  - Medicaid Funding
- IEP Meetings
  - Parent Role/Advocacy
    - Resources
  - How they work—where to get independent info, how to be a stronger advocate
  - **Relationships** with Teachers
    - Special Education
    - General Education
  - Committee Composition
  - Advocacy Assistance from Other Parents
- Role of General Education
  - Educating General Education Teachers
    - Overview
    - Resources
    - Ideas
    - Uneducated “educated” people
    - “White gloving kid”
- Volunteers (to assist with budget cuts)—must keep in mind needs of students
  - Community Outreach
  - Parents
  - Grandparents
  - Retired Teachers
  - Retired Citizens
- Summer School vs. Extended School Year (ESY)
- Paraprofessionals
  - Role
  - Assisting elsewhere in school?
- How to make things better!

- FAMILY (Parents!)
  - Expertise
  - Support for Each Other
  - Networking
- JDLA
- Gifted Education
- Resources
  - Families Together
  - Keys to Networking
  - Advocates
    - Paid
    - Other Parents

### **Fiscal Information**

- Medicaid Reimbursable
- Catastrophic Aid
- Categorical Aid
- Cuts
  - \$450,000 This Year, Not Fat
  - \$200,000 Next Year
    - Linda outlined the proposed cuts for next year
  - ARRA goes away after next year
- Responsibilities
  - Federal Mandates
  - State Mandates
  - Case Law: Chevy vs. Cadillac

### **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, April 13, 2010, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Oskaloosa Public Schools Library  
Discussion Focus:

- Legislative Matters
  - Contact Legislators!
  - “My child benefits ...” Tell Legislators
  - “Stop the cuts—it is hurting the capacity to help children.”
  - Special Education *is* cost effective
- Special Education Funding
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  - Categorical Aid
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